

HONORING SENATOR GROVER
FORD BOWERS, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a true friend to our Nation and the State of South Carolina. Friday, July 7, 2006, saw the sad passing of Grover Ford Bowers, Jr. Senator Bowers was born in Luray, South Carolina, in Hampton County on November 20, 1919. He was a son of the late Grover Ford Bowers, Sr. and Corinne Fitts Bowers. He graduated from Estill High School and the University of South Carolina. He was a member of Luray Christian Church where he served as finance chairman. He was also a member of Estill Masonic Lodge and the Society of 1824. Senator Bowers was a United States Marine Corps Veteran of World War II, having served on the Island of Tinian in the 18th Anti-Aircraft Artillery. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Captain. He then became the co-founder of Harper & Bowers Inc. in 1947. After retirement in 1976, he remained actively involved in both agri-business and politics. Senator Bowers served in the South Carolina Senate from 1962–1966 and was the last Senator from Hampton County. He served as a member of the Board of Visitors of Clemson University and The Medical University of South Carolina, as well as various State Commissions including: State Ethics Commission, State ASCS Commission, S.C. Highway Commission, State Transportation Commission and State Forestry Commission. In 1978 Senator Bowers was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor James B. Edwards.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Macie Tison Bowers, his 3 children, Martha B. Simons and her husband, Dr. Paul K. Simons; Grover F. Bowers III and his wife, Derbiana Peeples Bowers; William T. Bowers and his wife, Julia Roman Bowers. His 7 grandchildren include Caroline S. Chase and husband, Samuel Chase III, Paul K. Simons Jr., Grover F. Bowers IV, Hunter T. Bowers, Margaret E. Bowers, William T. Bowers and Charles R. Bowers. Senator Bowers also has one great grandson, Samuel M. Chase IV. He was preceded in death by two brothers, DeTreville F. Bowers and Corrin F. Bowers.

He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Ms. Mary Eleanor Bowers of Estill, South Carolina. Ms. Bowers served as the Estill Office Special Assistant of the Second Congressional District until her retirement. Before that she served on the staff of the late Congressman Floyd Spence and was initially added to service by Congressman Arthur Ravenel.

THE DEFINITION OF TYRANNY;
LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE
BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND THE
REPUBLICAN ENABLERS IN CON-
GRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, if Franz Kafka were writing his famous novel *The Trial* today,

he might find his inspiration in what is happening in America. In *The Trial* a man named Josef K awakens one morning and, for reasons never revealed, is arrested and subjected to the rigors of a bizarre judicial process for an unspecified crime. The agents who arrest him never tell him under what or whose authority he is being arrested. He is ultimately executed never knowing what he has done.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a column by Bob Herbert entitled "The Definition of Tyranny" which appeared in the July 17, 2006 edition of *The New York Times*. The subject of Mr. Herbert's article is the Bush Administration's response to the Supreme Court's holding in *Hamdan vs. Rumsfeld* that the military tribunals in use at Guantánamo Bay were illegal. The President was not authorized by Congress, nor did he have the power under Title II of the Constitution, to make law for the tribunals or for the treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay even though the country was engaged, he argued, in a "war on terror." The Court also faulted the President's failure to apply Article III of the Geneva Conventions in its treatment of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay.

In response, the President has requested that the Congress make legal what the Court found illegal. This response brought to my mind the situation in which Josef K found himself in *The Trial*. I enter this article by Mr. Herbert for the edification of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From the *New York Times*, July 17, 2006]

THE DEFINITION OF TYRANNY

(By Bob Herbert)

Congress is dithering and the American public doesn't even seem particularly concerned as the administration of George W. Bush systematically trashes such fundamental American values as justice, due process, respect for human rights and submission to the rule of law.

In the kangaroo courts that the administration concocted to try detainees at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, a defendant could be prevented from seeing the evidence against him, would not have the right to attend his own trial and would not have the right to appeal the sentence to a civilian court.

That's slapstick justice, a process worthy of the Marx Brothers.

"You have been accused of being a terrorist."

"Where is the evidence?"

"We can't show it to you."

"That's ridiculous."

"So is this court. We find you guilty. Take him away."

The Supreme Court now says, in a vote that was closer than it should have been, that this sort of madness cannot be permitted. In its recent decision striking down the tribunals for terror suspects at Guantánamo, the court said of the defendant, Salim Ahmed Hamdan: "He will be, and indeed already has been, excluded from his own trial."

The court said, in effect, that this is not the American way, that ours is not a Marx Brothers republic. Not yet, anyway. (It most likely will be if Mr. Bush gets to appoint one or two more justices to the court.)

The Bush-Cheney regime believes it can do whatever outlandish things it wants, including torturing people and keeping them incarcerated for life without even the semblance of due process. And it's not giving up. The administration now wants Congress to authorize what the Supreme Court has plainly said was wrong. White House lawyers, in a

torturous (pun intended) interpretation of the court's ruling, seem to be arguing that the kangaroo courts, otherwise known as military commissions, will be quite all right if only Congress will say so.

They're not all right. They're an abomination (like the secret C.I.A. prisons and the practice of extraordinary rendition) that spits in the face of the idea that the United States is a great and civilized nation.

"Can you imagine if the Hamdan decision, among others, had gone the other way?" said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has been waging an extraordinary fight to secure basic legal protections for prisoners at Guantánamo. "I mean we'd be looking at a dark nightmare."

The court's decision brought into sharp relief the importance of one of the most fundamental aspects of American government, the separation of powers. Checks and balances. The judicial branch put a halt—a check—on a gruesomely illegal practice by the executive.

Mr. Bush has tried to scrap the very idea of checks and balances. The Republican-controlled Congress has, for the most part, rolled over like trained seals for the president. And Mr. Bush is trying mightily to pack the courts with right-wingers who will do the same. Under those circumstances, his will becomes law.

Justice John Paul Stevens, who wrote the majority opinion in the Hamdan case, referred to a seminal quote from James Madison. The entire quote is as follows: "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

As the center noted in a recent report, "The U.S. government has employed every possible tactic to evade judicial review of its detention and interrogation practices in the 'war on terror,' including allegations that U.S. personnel subject prisoners to torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment."

There is every reason to be alarmed about the wretched road that Bush, Cheney et al. are speeding along. It is as if they were following a route deliberately designed to undermine a great nation.

A lot of Americans are like spoiled rich kids who take their wealth for granted. Too many of us have forgotten—or never learned—the real value of the great American ideals. Too many are standing silently by as Mr. Bush and his cronies engage in the kind of tyrannical and uncivilized behavior that has brought so much misery—and ultimately ruin—to previous societies.

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM
VETMEDICA, INC.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. in St. Joseph, Missouri as it celebrates its 25 year anniversary. This company is a subsidiary of Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation, one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.'s involvement has impacted all areas of the St. Joseph, Missouri community for the past 25 years.

As a staple of the community, the company continues to grow and give back to the people of Missouri. Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., or BIVI, employs over 500 people in the St. Joseph and Elwood area of Missouri. The 100 employees who have been with BIVI since the first day 25 years ago are evidence of BIVI's worker-friendly environment.

In conjunction with its commitment to the people of BIVI, the organization continues to have a positive impact on the development in this region as an active member of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. Not only is BIVI a committed leader in the United Way effort for St. Joseph, it also donates its time and money to the local schools and universities, a further investment in the future of this region.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. Its investment in the St. Joseph area community is exceptional. Let us use Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. as an example of the influence investing and re-investing can have on a broader community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE '91 TEXAS ELITE SOFTBALL CLUB

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the '91 Texas Elite Fast Pitch softball club on their 5th place finish in the National Championship on August 6th, 2006.

The team placed 5th after competing against 114 fast pitch softball teams from around the Nation. During the course of the tournament the ladies had a record of 9 and 2 and finished the tournament as the highest ranked Texas team.

Their success was the combined effort of many extremely talented athletes, and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible sense of teamwork put forth by all athletes.

I extend my sincere congratulations to coaches Slade Maloney and Stephanie Tamayo, as well as Ms. Taylor Petrick, Ms. Rayne House, Ms. Natalie Nimmo, Ms. Sara Draheim, Ms. Valerie Howell, Ms. Taylor Hoagland, Ms. Lindsay Zaobnjik, Ms. Danika Miller, Ms. Taylor Sells, Ms. Kim Spivey, and Ms. Magean De La Torre, the members of the '91 Texas Elite softball club.

TERROR ALERT: LOSS OF CREDIBILITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Richard Cohen for his recent article published in the Washington Post entitled "Terror Alert: Severe Risk of Hype" in which he calls into question the Bush administration's credibility when it comes to terrorism.

President Bush, Vice President CHENEY and other top administration officials asserted before the U.S. invasion that Iraq was reconsti-

tuting its nuclear weapons program, had chemical and biological weapons and maintained links to al Qaeda affiliates to whom it might give such weapons to use against the United States. Unfortunately, research and intelligence reports have proven otherwise. Instead of being adept at making sound policy, the current administration appears to be skilled in the art form of deception and dishonesty.

Currently, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is once again putting the American people on "Terror Alert" without having substantial information. Just last week Mr. Gonzales announced the arrest of seven terrorists. Have we not learned from our past mistakes? The announcement of the arrests of these alleged terrorists are part of a sad trend within the Bush administration to exaggerate the facts, labeling anyone thought to be acting suspiciously or fitting a racial stereotype an al-Qaeda type terrorist. What we see is the Bush Administration's need to once again hype certain issues to gain not only America's trust, but to use that to bolster its declining credibility.

This is a serious matter for a variety of reasons. First, if Americans are being asked to surrender a measure of privacy and civil liberties, they deserve to have an administration that will use data not to deceive but to protect. Also, the arrest of the seven alleged terrorists should not be used as evidence of the administration's success in protecting the Nation if the facts are not clear that a real threat is involved. The facts as revealed in press reports to date, as Richard Cohen asserts are suspiciously short of providing a reasonable case that these misguided youth were in any position to pose a real threat to accomplish their alleged goals. There is some likelihood in fact, that it was the FBI's sting operation that gave these would be perpetrators any credibility at all, and that their planning was led by the FBI operative who posed as a terrorist to entrap the inept plotters.

I enter into the RECORD the Washington Post column by Mr. Richard Cohen and commend him for presenting this issue regarding the Bush administration's penchant to hype Terror Alerts. In order to regain the American people's confidence the Bush administration should not use or target events to achieve some political gain. I believe the War on Terror can and will be won when leaders start leading responsibly, placing the interest of the people first and their political objectives second.

[From washingtonpost.com, June 27, 2006]

TERROR ALERT: SEVERE RISK OF HYPE

(By Richard Cohen)

It is the sheerest luck, I know, that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales looks (to me) a bit like Jerry Mahoney, because he fulfills the same function for the Bush administration that the dummy did for the ventriloquist Paul Winchell. At risk to his reputation and the mocking he must get when he comes home at night, Gonzales will call virtually anyone an al-Qaeda-type terrorist. He did that last week in announcing the arrest of seven inferred (it's the strongest word I can use) terrorists. I thought I saw Dick Cheney moving his lips.

The seven were indicted on charges that they wanted to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago and the FBI bureau in Miami. The arrests came in the nick of time, since all that prevented mass murder, mayhem and an

incessant crawl at the bottom of our TV screens was the lack of explosives, weapons or vehicles. The alleged conspirators did have boots, which were supplied by an FBI informant. Maybe the devil does wear Prada.

Naturally, cable news was all over the story since it provided pictures. These included shots of the Sears Tower, the FBI bureau, the seven alleged terrorists and, of course, Gonzales dutifully playing his assigned role of the dummy. He noted that the suspects wanted to wage a "full ground war" against the United States and "kill all the devils" they could—this despite a clear lack of materiel and sidewalk-level IQs. Still, as Gonzales pointed out, if "left unchecked, these homegrown terrorists may prove to be as dangerous as groups like al-Qaeda." A presidential medal for the man, please.

It is not now and never has been my intention to belittle terrorism. Clearly, if what the government alleges turns out to be the truth—look, that sometimes happens—then these guys deserve punishment. But theirs was such a preposterous, crackpot plot that the only reason it rose to the level of a televised news conference by the nation's chief law enforcement officer was the Bush administration's compulsive need to hype everything. For this, Gonzales, like a good Boy Scout, is always prepared.

Does it matter? Yes, it does. It matters because the Bush administration has already lost almost all credibility when it comes to terrorism. It said there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and there were none. It said al-Qaeda and Iraq were in cahoots and that was not the case. It has so exaggerated its domestic success in arresting or convicting terrorists that it simply cannot be believed on that score. About a year ago, for instance, President Bush (with Gonzales at his side) asserted that "federal terrorism investigations have resulted in charges against more than 400 suspects, and more than half of those charged have been convicted." The Post looked into that and found that the total number of (broadly defined) "terrorism" convictions was 39.

This compulsion to exaggerate and lie is so much a part of the Bush administration's DNA that it persists even though it has become counterproductive. For instance, the arrest of the seven suspects in Miami essentially coincided with the revelation by the New York Times that the government has "gained access to financial records from a vast international database and examined banking transactions involving thousands of Americans." Almost instantly, the administration did two things: It confirmed the story and complained about it. The Times account only helped terrorists, Cheney said.

Is he right? I wonder. This is a serious matter. After all, Americans are being asked to surrender a measure of privacy and civil liberties in the fight against terrorism—essentially the argument Cheney has been making. I for one am willing to make some compromises, but I feel downright foolish doing so if the fruit of the enterprise turns out to be seven hapless idiots who would blow up the Sears Tower, if only they could get to Chicago.

Cheney in particular has zero credibility, but his administration colleagues are not far behind. Prominent among them, of course, is the attorney general, a man so adept at crying wolf and mouthing the administration's line that he simply cannot be believed any more.

The Sears Tower. The Miami bureau of the FBI. Please. Someone, put the dummy back in his box.